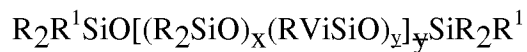


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A treated kaolin containing silicone rubber composition consisting essentially of:

- (i) one or more polymers which have the formula



wherein each R is the same or different and is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a 3,3,3-trifluoroalkyl group, R^1 is a hydroxy group or an alkenyl group, x is an integer, y is zero or an integer, and x + y is between 700 and 10 000;

- (ii) treated kaolin
- (iii) a curing agent; and
- (iv) optional additives selected from the group of one or more rheology modifiers, pigments, colouring agents, anti-adhesive agents, plasticizers, adhesion promoters, blowing agents, fire retardants and dessicants,

which composition is substantially free of reinforcing fillers including less than or equal to about 5 parts by weight of the reinforcing fillers per 100 parts by weight of the one or more polymers (i) and the treated kaolin (ii).

2. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 1 characterized in that the polymer(s) comprise(s) a mixture of two polysiloxane gums having the formula $R_2ViSiO[(R_2SiO)_x(RViSiO)_y]_ySiR_2Vi$ and the formula $R_2ViSi(R_2SiO)_xSiR_2Vi$ wherein in each formula, R represents an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms; Vi represents the vinyl group; and x and y each have values of 500-1,000.

3. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 characterized in that the kaolin comprises a kaolin treated with an alkoxysilane of the formula $R_{(4-n)}Si(OR)_n$ wherein n has a value of 1-3; and R is an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an alkenyl group.

4. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 3 characterized in that the alkoxysilane is a compound selected from the group consisting of methyltriethoxysilane, methyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, and vinyltrimethoxysilane.

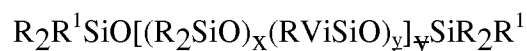
5. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 characterised in that the composition comprises about equal amounts of the polymer(s) and the kaolin.

6. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 characterised in that the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

7. (Previously Presented) A composition in accordance with Claim 1 characterised in that the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of making a treated kaolin containing silicone rubber composition consisting essentially of:

- (i) one or more polymers which have the formula



wherein each R is the same or different and is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a 3,3,3-trifluoroalkyl group, R¹ is a hydroxy group or an alkenyl group, x is an integer, y is zero or an integer, and x + y is between 700 and 10 000;

- (ii) treated kaolin
- (iii) a curing agent; and
- (iv) optional additives selected from the group of one or more rheology modifiers, pigments, colouring agents, anti-adhesive agents, plasticizers, adhesion promoters, blowing agents, fire retardants and dessicants,

which composition is substantially free of reinforcing fillers and includes less than or equal to about 5 parts by weight of the reinforcing fillers per 100 parts by weight of the one or more polymers (i) and the treated kaolin (ii), and

which method consists essentially of the steps:

- (i) mixing the polymer(s) and treated kaolin under room temperature conditions,
- (ii) adding a curing agent to the mixture in (i); and curing the mixture in (ii) at a temperature above room temperature by the application of heat.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 8 in which room temperature is normal ambient temperature of 20-25°C.

10. (Cancelled)

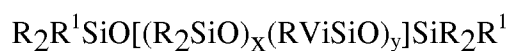
11. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 characterised in that each R group is a methyl or ethyl group.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (New) A treated kaolin containing silicone rubber composition consisting essentially of:

- (i) 100 parts by weight of a polysiloxane gum comprising equal parts by weight of;
 - (a) a first polysiloxane gum, and
 - (b) a second polysiloxane gum different from the first polysiloxane gum,

wherein the first and second polysiloxane gums independently have the formula



and wherein each R is the same or different and is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a 3,3,3-trifluoroalkyl group, R^1 is a hydroxy group or an alkenyl group, x is an integer, y is zero or an integer, and x + y is between 700 and 10 000;

(ii) calcined kaolin treated with an alkyoxysilane selected from the group consisting of methyltriethoxysilane, methyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, vinyltrimethoxysilane, and combinations thereof;

- (iii) a curing agent; and
- (iv) optional additives selected from the group of one or more rheology modifiers, pigments, colouring agents, anti-adhesive agents, plasticizers, adhesion promoters, blowing agents, fire retardants and dessicants,

which composition is substantially free of reinforcing fillers including less than or equal to about 5 parts by weight of the reinforcing fillers per 100 parts by weight of the polysiloxane gum (i) and the calcined kaolin (ii).

13. (New) A composition according to Claim 12 characterized in that the first polysiloxane gum has the formula $R_2ViSiO[(R_2SiO)_x(RViSiO)_y]SiR_2Vi$ and the second

polysiloxane gum has the formula $R_2ViSi(R_2SiO)_xSiR_2Vi$ wherein in each formula, R represents an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms; Vi represents the vinyl group; and x and y each have values of 500-1,000.

14. (New) A composition according to Claim 13 characterised in that each R group is a methyl or ethyl group.

15. (New) A composition according to Claim 14 characterised in that the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

16. (New) A composition in accordance with Claim 14 characterised in that the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.

17. (New) A composition according to Claim 13 characterised in that the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

18. (New) A composition in accordance with Claim 13 characterised in that the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.

19. (New) A composition according to Claim 12 characterised in that the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

20. (New) A composition in accordance with Claim 12 characterised in that the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.